

Board of Education Agenda Item

Item: _____ I. _____

Date: _____ November 30, 2005 _____

Topic: First Review of a Policy Statement for Implementing in Virginia Approved Programs the Virginia Communication and Literacy AssessmentTM

Presenter: Dr. Thomas A. Elliott, assistant superintendent for Teacher Education and Licensure

Telephone Number: (804) 371-2522

E-Mail Address: Thomas.Elliott@doe.virginia.gov

Origin:

_____ Topic presented for information only (no board action required)

_____ Board review required by

_____ State or federal law or regulation

_____ Board of Education regulation

_____ Other: _____

_____ Action requested at this meeting _____ Action requested at future meeting: _____ (date)

Previous Review/Action:

_____ No previous board review/action

_____ Previous review/action

date _____

action _____

Background Information:

At its February 23, 2005, meeting, the president of the Board of Education proposed the establishment of a special committee to re-examine teacher licensure assessments. On March 23, 2005, the Board of Education voted unanimously to establish the Special Committee of the Board of Education to Study and Make Recommendations Relative to Teacher Licensure Assessments. The committee forwarded recommendations to the Board of Education for review and action.

On June 22, 2005, the board approved the recommendations of the committee. The assessments [Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment (VCLA); Praxis II; and the Virginia Reading Assessment (VRA), if applicable] will be required for all individuals seeking initial licensure in Virginia unless exempted by out-of-state teaching experience as prescribed in the *Regulations Governing the Licensure of School Personnel*.

The Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment (VCLA) measures the communication and literacy skills necessary to teach and communicate effectively with parents and others in the education community. The VCLA comprises two subtests—reading and writing. The test includes both multiple-choice and constructed-response questions, with two writing assignments. Candidates are expected to demonstrate comprehension and analysis of readings; development of ideas in essay form on specific topics; outlining and summarizing skills; interpretation of tables and graphs; mastery of grammar, mechanics, and vocabulary; and writing skills.

The effective date for the implementation of the VCLA is January 1, 2006, and the first administration is scheduled for January 7, 2006. The Web site for the new test is <http://www.vcla.nesinc.com/>. Registration will be available on-line at this site at the end of November.

Summary of Major Elements:

Attached is a “Policy Statement for Implementing in Virginia Approved Programs the *Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment*TM.” The policy will be used to administer the VCLA as Virginia makes the transition to the VCLA; Praxis II; and VRA, if applicable, as the prescribed assessments for initial licensure in Virginia. The Praxis I assessment will continue to be the prescribed professional teacher’s examination for individuals seeking entry into teacher education programs.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education waive first review and approve the attached “Policy Statement for Implementing in Virginia Approved Programs the *Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment*TM” to be effective January 1, 2006.

Impact on Resources: N/A

Timetable for Further Review/Action: N/A

**Policy Statement for Implementing in Virginia Approved Programs
the *Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment*TM**

Presented to the Board of Education on November 30, 2005

Effective January 1, 2006, individuals who graduate from Virginia approved programs prior to December 31, 2006, and who have taken and passed the Praxis I (ACT or SAT); Praxis II; and the Virginia Reading Assessment (VRA), if applicable, will not be required to take and pass the *Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment*TM (VCLA).